

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 01627 010237Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05 /130 W
-----110165 010828Z /17

R 010139Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4849
INFO DOE GERMANTOWN
DOE WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, JA
SUBJECT: WORLD NATURAL URANIUM MARKET - JAPAN

REF: STATE 007629

FOLLOWING IS RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTTEL IN ORDER OF
LISTING:

1. ALL OF NINE JAPANESE UTILITY COMPANIES PLUS JAPAN ATOMIC
POWER COMPANY (BUILDER OF TOKAI I AND TOKAI II) PURCHASE U308
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 01627 010237Z

DIRECTLY FROM ORE PRODUCERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IN SOME CASES
THEY USE TRADING COMPANIES, A COMMON JAPANESE COMPANY PRACTICE,
BUT THERE IS NO STATE INTERMEDIARY.

2. COUNTRIES WHICH JAPAN CONTRACTS WITH FOR U308 AND AMOUNTS
U308 IN THOUSANDS OF SHORT TONS LISTED IN FOLLOWING CHART.
(EMBASSY POINTS OUT THAT JAPANESE UTILITY PURCHASES OF

U308 ARE FROM CONTRACTORS WHO ARE NOT NECESSARILY IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF THE U308. UTILITY CUSTOMER DOES NOT KNOW COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF U308 BUT ONLY COUNTRY OF CONTRACTOR.)

U308 IMPORTS

IN THOUSANDS OF SHORT TONS

CONTRACTOR COUNTRY	AMT CONTRACTED PRIOR TO 1977	PER- CENT	AMT CONTRACTED FROM 1977-1995	PER- CENT	TOTAL PER- CENT
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CANADA	16	62 40	33 56	38	
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US	4	15 0	0 4	3	
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UK	1	3 44	37 45	31	
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FRANCE	1	6 11	9 12	8	
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AUSTRALIA	0	0 7	6 7	5	
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S. AFRICA	4	14 18	15 22	15	
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TOTAL	26	100 120	100 146	100	
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3. DEPARTMENT ASSUMPTION THAT FUEL FABRICATORS AND CONVERTORS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 01627 010237Z

NOT DIRECT PURCHASERS OF U308 CORRECT. URANIUM IMPORT LICENSES ARE GRANTED ONLY TO FINAL USERS.

4. TOTAL OF 146 THOUSAND SHORT TONS IN 2 ABOVE INCLUDES ABOUT 2.6 SHORT TONS OF SPOT PURCHASES; REMAINDER OF 143 THOUSAND TONS IS ON LONG TERM CONTRACT BASIS. PRICES PER POUNC U308 UNDER LONG TERM CONTRACTS WERE ROUGHLY \$7 TO \$8 FOR 1970 TO 1972, \$10 TO \$12 FOR 1973 AND 1974, \$15 FOR 1975, \$20 FOR 1976 AND \$30 FOR 1977. SPOT PURCHASES PRICES RANGED FROM \$5 IN 1972 TO \$42 IN 1977. WHEN UTILITY ANTICIPATES SHORTAGE UNDER LONG TERM CONTRACT, IT ORDERS JAPANESE BUSINESS FIRM TO FIND SPOT SUPPLIER. NO OTHER PARTICULAR MECHANISM OR FORUM EXISTS FOR SPOT PURCHASES.

5. NO U308 OR ENRICHED FUEL STOCKPILE AS SUCH EXISTS, BUT A CERTAIN NUMBER OF FUEL ASSEMBLIES ARE HELD IN RESERVE AT POWER PLANT SITES IN CASE THEY ARE NEEDED. EMBASSY ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN BETTER DATA ALTHOUGH UTILITIES SO FAR CONTACTED AND MITI NOT BERY RESPONSIVE, BUT BEST ESTIMATE AVAILABLE FROM FEDERATION ELECTRIC POWER COMPANIES IS THAT ROUGHLY 250 TO 300 RESERVE FUEL ASSEMBLIES ARE IN RESERVE AT ALL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SITES IN JAPAN.

SHERMAN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD NATURAL URANIUM MARKET - JAPAN
TAGS: ENRG, JA
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